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Message Text

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53
ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 OMB-01 DRC-01

/155 W
---------- 013540
P R 041430Z OCT 73
FM USINT CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3878
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
USCINCEUR VAIHENGEN GER
USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 2942

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: MOPS EG IS
SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN MILITARY PREPARATIONS

REF: CAIRO 2936

1. REFTEL NOTED ONE POSSIBLE EXPLANATION OF PRESENT STATE OF ALERT AND REASON FOR GREATER MILITARY ACTIVITY IN EGYPT AS BEING THE INTERNAL ONE: TO-WIT, THAT FEARED INSTABILITY WITHIN EGYPTIAN ARMY HAS INDUCED SADAT TO RAISE LEVEL OF ALERT AND INTENSIFY TRAINING TO MAINTAIN TIGHT CLAMP ON SITUATION.

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2. THERE ARE ALTERNATIVE EXPLANATIONS. ONE IS THAT EGYPTIANS

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ARE REACTING DEFENSIVELY TO ISRAEL'S MILITARY MOVEMENTS OR INCREASED LEVEL OF ISRAELI READINESS. ANOTHER ALTERNATIVE IS THAT THE EGYPTIANS, SEEING INCREASED LEVEL OF ACTIVITY ON BOTH SIDES OF ARMISTICE LINE ON GOLAN HEIGHTS, ARE REACTING TO A GENERALLY INCREASED LEVEL OF AREA TENSION. WITH NO IDEA IN MIND AS TO WHAT MAY OCCUR BETWEEN ISRAEL AND SYRIA, THEY ARE TAKING PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES IN ANY CASE. FIRST POSSIBILITY IS PLAUSIBLE, BUT IS BASED IN PART ON ASSUMPTION THAT (A) ISRAELIS HAVE IN FACT RAISED THEIR STATE OF READINESS IN SINAI; OR (B) EGYPTIANS BELIEVE THEY HAVE DONE SO. SECOND ALTERNATIVE IS ALSO PLAUSIBLE IN VIEW OF RECENT EVENTS, PARTICULARLY ISRAELI/SYRIAN AIR CLASH AND PRESENT HEIGHTENED PREPARATIONS ALONG GOLAN FRONTIER. OTHER ALTERNATIVES INCLUDE THE DECISION BY MILITARY COMMAND TO INTENSIFY TRAINING AND LEVEL OF ALERT DURING RAMADAN, NORMALLY A MONTH OF TORPOR; OR TO TEST MILITARY CAPABILITIES FOLLOWING PERIOD WHEN FORCES HAVE BEEN REDUCED AND NEW CLASSES OF RECRUITS CYCLED INTO MILITARY STRUCTURE.

3. AT THIS POINT WE TEND TO GIVE SLIGHTLY HEAVIER WEIGHT TO ARGUMENT THAT MILITARY MOBILIZATION IS FOR INTERNAL REASONS. OTHER POSSIBILITIES, PARTICULARLY ONE THAT EGYPTIANS ARE REACTING TO REAL OR IMAGINED HEIGHTENED DEGREE OF ISRAELI ALERT, ARE NOT FAR BEHIND, HOWEVER.
SMITH

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